

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MAY 14, 2025

Regent Diana Mendoza called the May 14, 2025, Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Kathy Rupp conference room, located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regent Diana Mendoza
 Regent Alysia Johnston
 Regent Kathy Wolfe Moore

INTRODUCTIONS

Provost Bichelmeyer introduced Vice Provost Jen Roberts, and Provost Mendez introduced Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and Innovation Margaret Mohr-Schroeder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Johnston moved that the minutes of the April 30, 2025, meeting be approved. Regent Kathy Wolfe Moore seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

BOARD DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEMS

ALL STAR HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECOGNITIONS

Associate Director for Academic Affairs Mistie Knox provided a brief overview of the All Star High School Award Recognitions, which will be presented during the Board meeting. To be eligible, schools were required to host three events: an Apply Kansas Application Completion Event, a FAFSA Completion Event, and a Senior Signing, Decision, or Celebration Event. A total of 217 schools met the criteria and will be recognized for their achievement.

KU, KUMC, & KSU ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW

Provost Bichelmeyer from KU indicated that a detailed report about KU and KUMC's academic program review process, policies, and action plans was provided in February and said that today's presentations will provide a more in-depth overview of the policies and processes for the institution's academic program review process, as well as an update on the low-enrolled programs. Provost Bichelmeyer then introduced Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Robert Klein to provide the presentation for KUMC.

Vice Chancellor Klein provided an overview of the program review process at KUMC, which consists of departments conducting self-study between January and July, the program review committee reviewing and meeting with all the departments in the fall, and a final review report is shared with departments in December. All of KUMC's undergraduate programs meet the identified minima; one master's program will be moved from the School of Nursing to the Department of Health Information Management in the School of Health Professions, and one program has been phased out. KUMC has recommended continuing all other programs. He also shared examples of improvement from the review for specific programs at KUMC.

Vice Provost at KU, Jen Roberts, provided an overview of the program review process at KU and how they are working to align KBOR priorities and KU's Strategic Plans with the Academic Program Review. Their program review process involves reviewing the KBOR data, which kicks off KU's four-year review cycle. The Academic Affairs team meets with the Deans and Chairs, and action plans are integrated into the internal review process. Internally, KU reviews approximately a quarter of its programs annually. The departments of these programs review their data, prepare self-study reports, and set goals in the fall, which are then reviewed by the Dean in early

Spring, who provides endorsements. A team then reviews the self-study report and meets with the departments. In the summer, the Provost and the Academic Affairs team provide feedback to the Deans. The program lifecycle at KU has instituted a multi-stage review of all new program proposals. KU has updated policies to refine and streamline program offerings and has worked on increasing transferability into Bachelor's degree programs.

As a result of this year's Program Review, the recommendations are to discontinue two programs, merge two programs, and place five on action plans. KU also continues to monitor twenty other programs that were previously meeting minima prior to COVID. These programs are trending upward, but will continue to be monitored. A few programs are not anticipated to ever meet the minima, but serve unique needs for other specific programs.

Regent Johnston asked if the process for reviewing administrative efficiencies at KU, particularly for the low-enrolled programs, could be looked at more formally, and a report be provided to KBOR on the specific findings. Regent Mendoza requested that the report be presented in December 2025, when the reports for the programs that are on action plans will be presented.

Provost Jesse Mendez started the overview of the program review process at KSU by reviewing the evolution of changes in the Office of the Provost and enrollment trends for the last few years. He then introduced Vice Provost Margaret Mohr-Schroeder, who presented details on the program review process and revitalization goals. Currently, all programs undergo an extensive review process annually. This includes a review and discussion of data, assessment of the previous year's actions, establishment of new action plans, applications for strategic investment, and then identifying programs for further review. She shared examples of their continuous improvement process, which included moving to a four-year in-depth review cycle, continued yearly review of student learning outcomes, enrollment, and retention, and continued strategic investment in program revitalization.

Currently, KSU is focusing on growing 112 programs through marketing and expansion, sixty programs are focused on sustaining, and forty programs are being monitored for progress and improvement plans. Recommendations include phasing out two programs and placing another program on an action plan. Vice Provost Mohr-Schroeder gave an update on the two programs that were placed on action plans last year, the bachelor's in geography and the bachelor's in music. She also shared that KSU has created internal reports that provide information on students transferring in, including a Community College Report that has helped drive conversations on transfer. She also shared some strategic program investments. Finally, she indicated that KSU also has some niche programs that are not expected to meet minima but are offered in an obligation to create opportunity and access as a land-grant institution.

Regent Mendoza requested that a more in-depth report be provided in December's presentations on the steps being taken to increase enrollment, specifically for the master's and doctoral programs that are not meeting minima.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regent Mendoza stated that all other agenda items would be postponed until the next BAASC meeting on May 28, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Regent Mendoza adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.